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## **City Council Takes Action on Several Sustainability Areas**

*Stage 1 water shortage emergency condition declared; ordinances that reduce landfill impact move closer to adoption*

**Mountain View, Calif.** — At the [Tuesday, Nov. 9 meeting](#), the Mountain View City Council took action on several items that have long-term sustainability benefits. These actions involved declaring a Stage 1 water shortage emergency condition to increase water conservation and moving forward on two ordinances – a Food Service Ware Ordinance and a Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction Ordinance – that aim to reduce the amount of trash that goes into the landfill.

“This week’s actions demonstrate that Mountain View remains committed to sustainability as we support our residents and businesses in adopting sustainable practices and using resources wisely,” said Mayor Ellen Kamei. “One of our seven strategic priorities concerns sustainability and climate resiliency. By conserving water and reducing the amount of food and other solid waste that go to the landfill, we are building a sustainable city for future generations.”

### **Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency Condition**

Through the [Stage 1 declaration](#), the City of Mountain View is encouraging their water utility customers to voluntarily reduce their water consumption. The City will also expand public outreach to notify customers of the need to conserve water. Actions that residential and business customers can take include reducing their irrigation and participating in the City’s water conservation program, [ConserveWater.MountainView.gov](#).

This drought-related declaration is due to an anticipated decline in San Francisco Regional Water System’s water supply after the State Water Resources Control Board ordered a reduction of water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed. Mountain View receives approximately 84% of its primary water supply from SFPUC. SFPUC is scheduled to consider declaration of a water shortage emergency on Nov. 23.

The City’s Water Shortage Plan includes four “Stages of Action,” which is implemented based on the demand reduction necessary:

- Stage 1—demand reduction of up to 10%;
- Stage 2—demand reduction of up to 25%;
- Stage 3—demand reduction of up to 40%; and
- Stage 4—demand reduction greater than 40%.

The severity of these restrictions increases with the need for conservation.

Meantime, Cal Water's Los Altos District, which serves a small number of properties in Mountain View, has scheduled a public meeting for Nov. 17 to discuss moving into Stage 2 of their water shortage contingency plan. CalWater will directly notify affected residents and businesses about any relevant water use restrictions. Cal Water's declaration does not affect the City of Mountain View's water supply.

### **Food Service Ware Ordinance**

As part of implementing the City's [Zero Waste Policy](#) and [Zero Waste Plan](#), the Council approved moving forward with an ordinance that would require disposable food service ware to be made of compostable fiber-based material and certified free of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This ordinance complements recently adopted State laws intended to reduce the use of disposable food service ware accessories (e.g. straws, utensils, condiment packets) and prohibit the sale and distribution of food packaging containing PFAS, which are a toxic substance.

The City's implementation of the Zero Waste Plan measures includes two phases beginning with disposable food service ware regulation and supporting voluntary business transitions to reusable food service ware, while developing the infrastructure to support more widespread use of reusable items.

The recommended ordinance would:

- Continue City's existing polystyrene foam food ware ban.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, food providers may only use nonreusable food service ware (cups, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, boxes, wrappers or liners, and hinged containers, etc.) that is compostable (natural fiber-based) and third-party certified free of PFAS, with exception of food service ware made entirely of aluminum, which is recyclable.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, food providers may not use the following nonreusable food service ware accessories if made from or packaged in plastic, including biologically based polymers or compostable plastic: straws, stirrers, food picks, or toothpicks.

The Council will hear a second reading of the ordinance and consider its adoption at the Dec. 14 meeting.

The Council also directed staff to explore an amendment to the Reusable Bag Ordinance to potentially regulate the distribution of single-use plastic bags by restaurants and other food providers.

### **Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction Ordinance**

Due to a new State law, Senate Bill (SB) 1383, the Council moved ahead on an ordinance that would further reduce the amount of organic waste, such as food scraps, that ends up in the landfill. SB 1383 establishes statewide 2025 targets to reduce the amount of organic waste in the landfill by 75% from 2014 levels and divert at least 20% of currently disposed edible food to food recovery organizations.

Since the State law is mandatory and very precise, the City has little flexibility in the ordinance's content. However, many of the provisions are consistent with the City's Zero Waste Plan and build on services and initiatives already provided by the City. Among the requirements, single-family and multi-family residents and businesses must use the City's organics collection services to divert organic waste from the landfill. Organic waste includes food scraps, food-soiled paper and plant debris. View the [staff report](#) for additional details.

The Council will also consider adoption of this ordinance during its second reading at the Dec. 14 meeting.

### **About the City of Mountain View**

Located between the Santa Cruz Mountains and San Francisco Bay, Mountain View is a diverse community with an estimated population of 82,814. Mountain View covers just over 12 square miles, featuring over 1,000 acres of park and wildlife areas including the 750-acre wildlife and recreation area called Shoreline at Mountain View. In the heart of Silicon Valley, Mountain View is home to a vibrant downtown and headquarters to many nationally and internationally known corporations including Google, LinkedIn, Intuit and NASA Ames Research Center. For more information, visit [MountainView.gov](http://MountainView.gov).

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